

Record

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MBCB sees where Miss. Baptists began

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

In an historic, first-of-its-kind meeting, the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) convened May 11 in Amite County to conduct business and tour the sites where the seeds of Mississippi Baptist work were planted nearly 200 years ago.

Gathering at Liberty Church, Liberty, board members heard reports from board president Gary Richardson, pastor of First Church, West Point, and MBCB executive committee chairman Frank Harmon, pastor of First Church, Newton.

It was Richardson's first board meeting as president, having succeeded to the post after the former president, Jerry Mixon, resigned from the board and the pastorate of Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale, to accept the position of MBCB Stewardship Director.

Harmon told board members that the MBCB executive committee, meeting May 4 at the Baptist Building in Jackson, acted on a number of items, including:

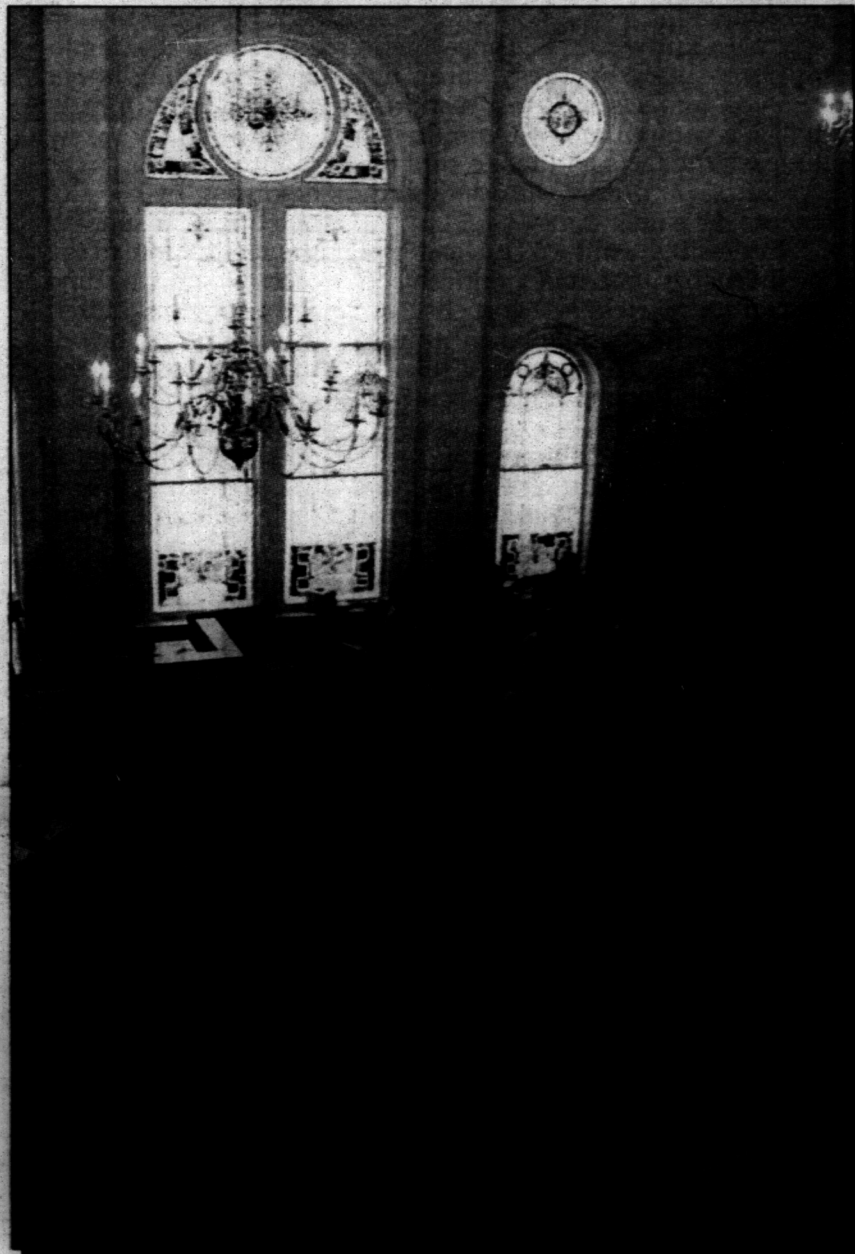
- authorization for MBCB executive director-treasurer Jim Futral to negotiate the sale of approximately 2.7 acres of board-owned property adjacent to the state penitentiary at Parchman that was once used for the Parchman Prison Ministry.

The focus of the prison ministry changed over the years, the property has fallen into disrepair after standing vacant for some time, and a buyer has indicated an interest in purchasing it, according to a report given to the executive committee.

- approval of the transfer of less than one-half acre of property belonging to Crossroad Church, Biloxi, to the Mississippi Department of Transportation, which has determined the land is required for expansion of the Highway 67 Bypass.

Since the board purchased approximately six acres for the new church site in 1998, executive committee approval was required under a reversionary clause in the property's warranty deed.

When MBCB purchases property for a church site, a reversionary clause is attached to the warranty deed to provide assurance that the property will



CALL TO ORDER — Gary Richardson (at podium), pastor of First Church, West Point, and president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, convenes the May 11 board meeting in the sanctuary of Liberty Church, Liberty. After the meeting, board members toured nearby historic sites where Mississippi Baptist work began two centuries ago. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

be used to further God's Kingdom and Mississippi Southern Baptist work.

- approval of the initiation of the Alpha and Omega Mission Endowment Fund, to be promoted by the MBCB Stewardship Department and managed by the Mississippi Baptist Foundation.

The endowment will focus on the areas of evangelism, new church starts, ethnic language groups, partnership missions, Cooperative Program support, and other ministries.

- allocation of an additional \$60,000 to close out the Celebrate Jesus 2000 Bible distribution project and provide 10,000 Bibles for Mississippi firefighters through the state firefighters association.

MBCB Evangelism Director S.A. "Sonny" Adkins told the executive committee that almost 590,000 Bibles will have been placed in Mississippi homes by the time the program comes to an end later this year.

Adkins also pointed out that Mississippi Baptists were the only state convention in the Southern Baptist Convention to choose the Bible distribution project as the major thrust of their Celebrate Jesus 2000 campaign.

- approval of a proposal to bring MBCB employees' per-mile reimbursement rate for private automobile use in line with Internal Revenue Service regulations.

Harmon said the executive committee also approved three new MBCB members:

- Ronnie K. Maxie, pastor of Shady Grove Church, Lucedale, to fill the unexpired George Association term of Jerry Mixon, who resigned to accept the post of MBCB Stewardship Director.

- George Meadows, pastor of First Church, Itta Bena, to fill the unexpired Leflore Association term of Jeff Floyd, pastor of Calvary Church, Greenwood, who resigned to devote more time to his family.

- Lynn Nations, pastor of First Church, Raleigh, to fill the unexpired Smith Association term of layman Phil Tally, who resigned due to a lack of available time to attend board meetings.

In welcoming the board members to Liberty Church, pastor Martin Hayden noted that the last statewide Baptist group to meet at Liberty Church, which predates both the state and national Southern Baptist conventions, gathered there for the annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention — 142 years ago to the month.

Alton Foster, director of missions for Mississippi Association in Liberty, pointed out that the local association also predates the state and national denominational conventions, having been organized at Salem Church on Cole's Creek in 1806.

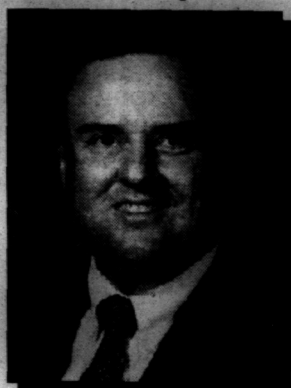
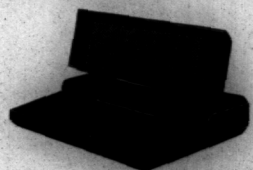
Charles Terrell, pastor of Port Gibson Church, Port Gibson, and the MBCB board member from Claiborne County, presented board members with poster-size reproductions of his original painting depicting the first Baptist Church in Mississippi started by Richard Curtis Jr., the first Baptist preacher in the territory that came to be known as Mississippi.

Also on hand for the board meeting were Bonnie Cole, her brother D.L. Cole, and Julie Hynum, who are descendants of Richard Curtis Jr.

Lunch for the board members was provided by the congregation of Liberty Church. After lunch, Alton Foster led a convoy of church vans filled with board members to the grave site of Richard Curtis Jr., who is buried in a pasture outside Liberty. Curtis succumbed to an unknown illness in 1806 and was buried under a cluster of trees near the small settlement where he died.

Continued on page four.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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Dealing in the 'facts' of gambling

Frank Fahrenkopf, head of the American Gaming Association, has thrown down the gauntlet. Addressing the opening session of the Southern Gaming Summit in Biloxi last week, he said it's time for gambling promoters to strike back against complaints that there may actually be serious drawbacks associated with legalized gambling.

According to a report written by Patrice Sawyer for the May 11 issue of The Clarion-Ledger newspaper, Fahrenkopf said, "It's up to each and every one of us to make sure that any decisions about our business are based on facts, not anecdotes. It's about time across this country to speak up and respond."

"We know that those who oppose our business are not swayed by facts. It is our responsibility as supporters of the industry to learn the facts and make sure the American public understands them," he said.

Interesting, isn't it? The leader of an industry that relies entirely on deception, trickery, and hollow promises for its billions in annual profits, extols the virtues of relying on "facts" to make it appear not to be so.

All right, Mr. Fahrenkopf, we'd like to take you up on your challenge.

It's a fact that Beverley Durham of Jackson is going to jail for embezzling more than \$700,000 to feed her crushing gambling addiction.

A former branch manager for Deposit Guaranty Bank, Durham stood before U.S. District Judge Tom S. Lee on May 12 to hear her sentence after pleading guilty to bank fraud — exactly two days after Fahrenkopf made his attack speech in Biloxi.

"I got involved in gambling. By the time I realized I had an addiction, really I was too embarrassed to get help," she told the judge, according to an article by Beverly Pettigrew Kraft in the May 13 issue of The Clarion-Ledger.

Lee sentenced her to 15 months in federal prison and ordered her to pay \$714,388

in restitution, cementing her reputation as a convict and saddling her with a debt she likely will never be able to repay in her lifetime.

That's a fact, Mr. Fahrenkopf.

Gaylon (not her real name) was profiled in a 1996 series published in The Baptist Record. A Southern Baptist mother of five children, she voted "no" in the referendum that brought legalized gambling to her Gulf Coast county.

Within a few months, she was detouring by the slot machines when all she really came to the casino to do was dine at the fabulous buffet. It wasn't long before she cleaned out the family savings, drove her recovering alcoholic husband back to drinking, and stole money from her children.

She described how she would go days without eating so she wouldn't have to leave a "hot" slot machine. So deep was her gambling addiction that she prostituted herself (with the help of casino employees) and fantasized about robbing banks for the cash.

She considered suicide when she caught herself thinking of selling her teen daughter's body for gambling money. Even though she wanted to make a clean break, she quickly washed out of a Christian treatment program for gambling addicts and hasn't been seen since.

Legalized gambling entrapped Gaylon and took away everyone she loved and everything she possessed, even her dignity.

**DARE TO STAND UP FOR
WHAT YOU
ARE
ASSURED
IS RIGHT!**



*"A LITTLE
GAINED HON-
ESTLY, IS BETTER
THAN GREAT WEALTH
GOTTEN BY DISHONEST
MEANS." — PROV. 16:8 (L.B.)*

That's a fact, Mr. Fahrenkopf.

It is a deep mystery how people can become so hardened to the human condition that they would attempt to refute such suffering and misery with glittering tales of booming economic times and rising tax payments.

God has made it clear in his Word that he cares not for all that worthless material stuff, but for the soul of every living human being. As long as even one soul is lost for eternity because of gambling, Mississippi Baptists will stand in the gap, fighting the good fight against this great evil.

That's not a threat. That's not an empty promise.

That's a fact, Mr. Fahrenkopf.

GUEST OPINION:



The importance of our seniors

By Milton A. Spotts, member
Border Springs Church, Caledonia

word "aged" and the word "teach"? Therefore how can one teach when one retires?

"Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, whom shall I send and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me." (Isaiah 6:8) Send us, O Lord to the fields regardless of age to teach our younger generations the way of the Lord.

In Joshua 14:6-15 Caleb stands before Joshua, God's new leader of Israel, seeking his inheritance. Wait! Something here needs our immediate attention. Not only does he want his inheritance, but he wants it at age 85. Surely

not! Shouldn't he be retired? He can just move into the land God has promised him and settle down. Wrong! We see he must first "drive out the Anakims from the land." Remember Num. 13:13: "And there we saw the sons of Anak (Anakims), which come of the giants: and we were in our sights as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight." Caleb must drive out an enemy of great stature, so feared by the nation of Israel that they refused to enter the promised land 40 years ago. Forty-five additional years of service sees Caleb survive through God's

grace to receive his inheritance. He does not hesitate preparing to cleanse this land. "Through God we shall do valiantly; for he it is that shall tread down our enemies." (Psa. 62:12) "All nations compassed me about; but in the name of the Lord will I destroy them." (Psa. 108:10) What shall we then say to these beliefs? "If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Rom. 8:30) What glorious words to instill the desire to continue on for God. Caleb already knows what he was about. God had been with him 85 years. He was not about to leave his Father now.

God blesses us as we work toward the day we can retire. At this time we believe we can enjoy the fruits of our labors. God at this time also wants to enjoy the fruits of his labors — this being the giving of our time to teach what he's taught us to our new generation as it written in Titus and exemplified by Caleb.

Retire? I think not! Stand in the gap. Save our children from being lost along the way.

Nigerians mark Baptist work anniversary

ABEOKUTA, Nigeria (BP) — With the new president of Nigeria, Olusegun Obasanjo, a declared Baptist, and the overall Baptist community numbering more than 3.5 million, the Nigerian Baptist Convention (NBC) had much cause for rejoicing during its 150th anniversary celebration April 16-20.

Even heavy rains couldn't dampen spirits as thousands of Baptist witness and ministry April 15-20. Obasanjo, a Baptist himself, told the crowd: "I stand here as a man who must say 'to God be the glory' for this great period of Baptist history. May God grant to us more M.K.O. Abiola fruitful years of service." (BP photo by Bob Siddens)



Abekuta, where Baptist work started. The convention now encompasses 7,000-plus churches with 880,000 baptized members.

Among those attending the celebration were Denton Lotz, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA), and Jerry Rankin, president of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, which started work in Nigeria on Aug. 5, 1850, with the arrival of the first missionary, Thomas Jefferson Bowen.

"It was a great moment when Jerry Rankin gave greetings," Lotz said, "since the NBC is the result of the outstanding pioneer mission work of the Southern Baptist Convention."

Lotz had an opportunity to greet Nigerian President Obasanjo on behalf of Baptists worldwide. Obasanjo himself, however, by far was the convention's star attraction. He

was greeted enthusiastically when he came and led the crowd in singing, "To God Be the Glory."

"This is one of the most fulfilling hours of my life," Obasanjo said. "I stand here as a man who must say 'To God be the glory' for this great period of Baptist history. May God grant to us more fruitful years of service."

The president singled out the International Mission Board and thanked Southern Baptists for planting the seeds of the gospel and working diligently to nurture and grow Nigerian Christians.

"Their work has influenced millions of Nigerians and other African countries. I speak as one of those touched by their work," said Obasanjo, who attended a Baptist boys' high school, where he was first introduced to the love of Jesus Christ.

Jailed for his opposition to the military government in Nigeria, Obasanjo became a much more committed believer to Jesus Christ during his imprisonment.

There he wrote a book on "Guides to Effective Prayer." In the introduction he writes, "... the greatest weapon of humankind today is prayer ... to bring about change in the human situation and the world situation at every level."

In light of recent Muslim-Christian unrest in Nigeria, Obasanjo stressed the need for reconciliation between the two groups and he called on Christians and Muslims to fast and pray for two days for peace. Obasanjo also underscored the need to fight all forms of sectarianism which divide Nigerians.

He implored Baptists to be involved in education. This follows the expressed wish of many government and Christian leaders that all of the former religious schools be returned to the denominations because the quality of education from those schools has not yet been matched by the national government.

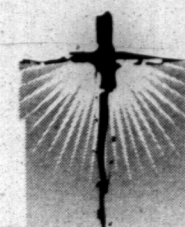
Lotz, addressing Nigerian Baptists, tapped the theme "Jesus Christ Forever. Yes!" He called on Baptists to say yes to Jesus Christ, to human rights, to freedom of religion, to separation of church and state and to the priesthood of all believers.

Attending the meeting with the BWA general secretary was his wife, Mississippian Janice Robinson Lotz, who was one of

the first Southern Baptist journey-men to teach at the Idi Aba Baptist Women's Teacher Training College in Abeokuta in 1965.

Perennial leaders in evangelism, Nigerian Baptists in 1999 started 851 churches and baptized 30,150 people. The convention also has sent out 36 missionaries to serve in Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Cote d'Ivoire and Guinea.

Nigeria was the springboard for Baptist work in Africa. Nigerian Christian traders shared their faith as they traveled in and out of Benin, Ghana and Togo. Small pockets of believers developed along the trade routes and began asking for missionaries and pastors. In the 1950s, Baptist missionaries were sent to Ghana. A few years later, six Nigerian missionaries



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE

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moved to the other side of the continent to start Baptist work in East Africa. Today Southern Baptist missionaries, their African Baptist co-workers, and other Great Commission Christians are making plans to take the Gospel to every people group on the continent.



Looking back

10 years ago

The Faculty Club of Southern Seminary calls for the resignation of seminary trustee Jerry Johnson of Colorado. Johnson wrote a paper, published by the Southern Baptist Advocate, charging seminary president Roy Honeycutt and other seminary faculty members with heresy.

20 years ago

W. A. Criswell, pastor of First Church, Dallas, says his associate, Paige Patterson, will withdraw from the leadership of the movement aimed at controlling the SBC presidency. While praising Patterson for his devotion and zeal, Criswell says his methods were "those of a different world."

50 years ago

The mid-year meeting of Marshall-Lafayette Association is held at one-year-old North Oxford Church, Oxford, which was organized in April, 1949. The new church has 47 members. Associational Missionary G. W. Crawford serves as pastor.

50 YEARS — International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin (right) honors Alma Rohm for 50 years of missionary service in Nigeria. Rohm received a standing ovation as she accepted her service pin during April 15-20 ceremonies celebrating 150 years of Baptist witness and ministry in Nigeria. Rohm taught most of the Nigerian Baptist pastors and church leaders serving today. During her tenure, she has done everything from teaching at a girls school to planting churches. Her main duties, however, have been at the Baptist College in Iwo. (BP photo by Bob Siddens)

NOBTS sets new approach

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—Recognizing that some students learn best by experience, New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS) has developed a new approach to its master of divinity education: a church ministry track with hands-on training in the local church as a large part of its curriculum, to be inaugurated this fall. This program is designed for students interested in combining classical educational approaches with experiential learning through church-based skill development, and mentoring relationships, said Perry Hancock, program director and associate dean of the graduate faculty. Upon completion of the basic master of divinity ministerial competency component, which is based on seven core competencies identified in an earlier study at NOBTS, the student will finish the degree requirements through a local church ministry experience under the supervision of a field mentor, Hancock said. "The church ministry track of our new master of divinity degree is the product of a creative NOBTS faculty task force which spent hundreds of hours to invent and design this innovative program," said NOBTS Provost Steve Lemke, explaining how the new delivery system for theological education offers students the option to complete the master of divinity degree while practicing Christian ministry. "While this is a new way of earning the M.Div. degree, it builds on old principles," Lemke explained. "One early motto at NOBTS was 'Learn to Do, Do to Learn.' The Christian ministry track affords students the opportunity to study ministry not just in the classroom setting, but to learn by doing." Students, churches or those interested in serving as mentors who desire more information may contact Perry Hancock at (800) 662-8701, ext. 3327, via e-mail at phancock@nobts.edu or by visiting the seminary's Internet site at www.nobts.edu/churchmin.

MBCB meets near birthplace of Miss. work

Continued from page one.

In 1956, members of the Mississippi Baptist Brotherhood cleared the overgrowth from Curtis' grave site, poured a concrete pad, and installed a monument commemorating his ministry. The bent and rusted remains of a wrought iron fence, installed at the same time, can be seen surrounding the site.

Board members capped their pilgrimage with a visit to Ebenezer Church, located about a mile-and-a-half from Curtis' grave site. Curtis founded the church, which is known as the oldest active Baptist organization in the state, and a monument in his honor rests in the adjacent cemetery.

Inside the sanctuary of the stately old church, a brief service was held to remember the sacrifices made by those early Mississippi Baptists, who were constantly hounded by Native Americans for territorial reasons and persecuted by Catholics for religious reasons.

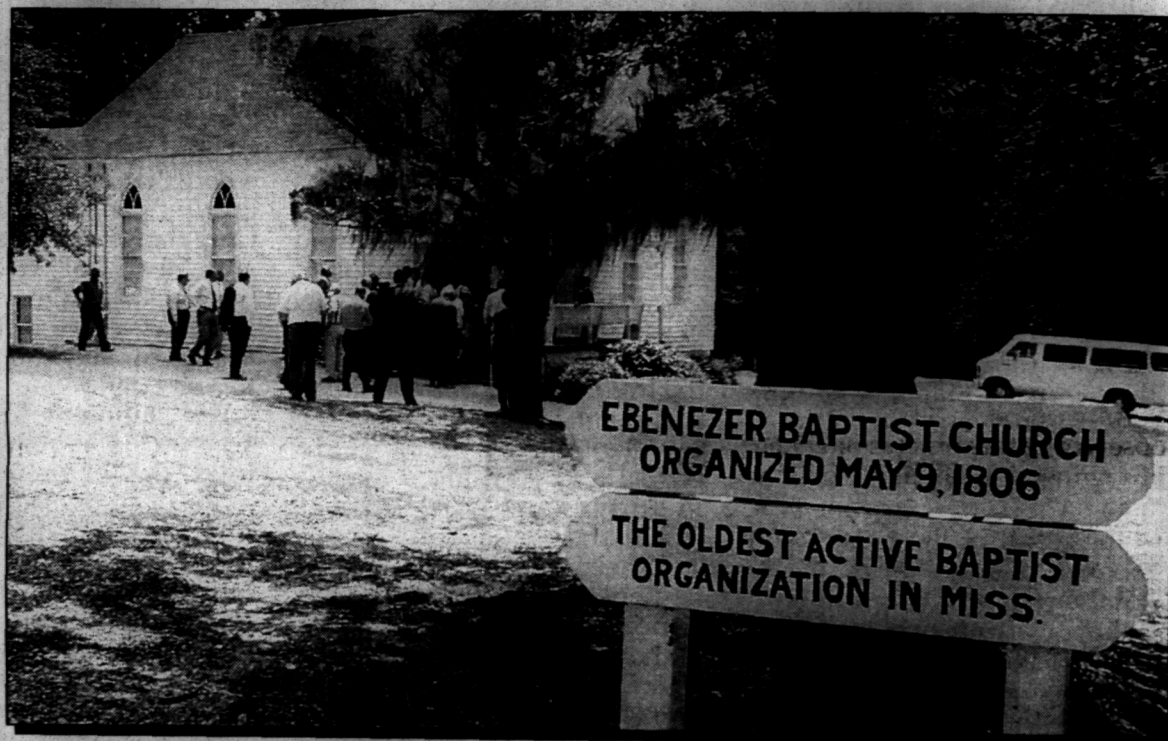
After the service, board members were dismissed to return to their homes. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for August 29.



HISTORIC MEETING — Members of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) gather at Liberty Church, Liberty, for the first MBCB meeting in memory in the area of the state where Mississippi Baptist work was born 200 years ago. (Photo by Carl M. White)



HALLOWED GROUND — Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, addresses board members at the grave site of Mississippi's first Baptist preacher, Richard Curtis Jr. The grave site is located in a pasture a few miles outside Liberty. (Photo by Carl M. White)



SPECIAL SERVICE — Members of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board file in to Ebenezer Church near Liberty for a special service before adjourning. Ebenezer Church is one of several churches started almost 200 years ago by Mississippi's first Baptist preacher, Richard Curtis Jr. A monument commemorating Curtis' early work stands in the church's cemetery. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

NAMB to apply divorce policy to new chaplains

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Trustees of the North American Mission Board (NAMB) have broadened the agency's divorce policy to include chaplains applying for endorsement by the SBC Chaplains Commission. The change was approved during the agency's May 3 meeting at NAMB's Broadcast Communication Center in Fort Worth, where trustees also appointed 33 missionaries, endorsed 24 chaplains and elected officers for the coming year.

NAMB's policy on divorce previously applied to those persons appointed and approved as missionaries. The policy now applies to chaplains seeking SBC endorsement after May 3.

The policy states "divorced people will rarely, and only under unusual circumstances,

be appointed, approved, or endorsed for mission service."

Sexual unfaithfulness and desertion are cited in the policy as biblical rationale for possible divorce exceptions.

Kelley Burris, NAMB trustee from Virginia Beach, Va., and chairman of the task force that studied and brought the recommendation to the full board, acknowledged the policy was a sensitive issue — but, he said, the action was necessary in order to "apply biblical principles consistently to missionaries and chaplains alike."

"We all have our own opinions," Burris said, "but putting mission personnel and chaplains under the same guidelines would be for the greater good, representing NAMB and the Southern Baptist Convention."

Robert E. Reccord, NAMB

president, told Baptist Press, "The key goals here were to make sure what we do is biblical, and that we're consistent. Although our society has abandoned biblical standards, we are committed to holding to those standards."

Another new provision of the policy is that it extends the remarriage restriction to the wife of future candidates seeking appointment, approval, or endorsement to a pastoral role. Men who have experienced a biblical divorce will only be considered for a pastoral role if they have not remarried. The policy allows for divorced persons to serve in a myriad of non-pastoral roles "if the divorce is determined to be biblically based."

Trustee Jesse Lott from Morganton, N.C., asked if the policy applied to Mission

Service Corps (MSC) volunteers. MSC is for adult volunteers who commit to serve at least 20 hours per week and at least four months in an approved ministry position, often in partnership with state Baptist conventions and/or associations.

Burris explained the divorce guidelines are applied to MSC volunteers serving in a pastoral role, but not to those in other ministry positions.

NAMB's vice president responsible for volunteer programs, Nate Adams, told trustees that, in fact, MSC "can be an alternative area of service where people can give their lives in mission service whether they qualify for a pastoral role or not."

The revised policy passed with one dissenting vote.

Missionary shot as young son kidnapped

BOUAKE, Cote d'Ivoire (BP) — A Southern Baptist missionary in Cote d'Ivoire was wounded May 8 when gunmen hijacked his car and drove away with the missionary's son still in the vehicle.

Travis Forsythe was driving home to Dabakala, where he and his wife serve among the Djimini people group. His two-year-old son, Nathanael, was with him.

When Forsythe stopped for food late in the day at the city of Bouake, two bandits took the car from him at gunpoint. Forsythe clung to the open door of the vehicle, trying to convince the gunmen to let him get Nathanael out. The driver shot and wounded Forsythe, who chased the car as it sped away with his son in the back seat.

Forsythe's wife, Kim, and their 5-year-old daughter, Gloria, were not with him at the time. Kim Forsythe was observing her 30th birthday at home, ordered to bed by her doctor because of complications in her pregnancy.

That the carjacking occurred on her birthday may have been the saving grace for her husband and son. Many Southern Baptist publications carry prayer calendars with the names of missionaries and their birth dates. Thousands of Southern Baptists were praying for Kim Forsythe as the gunmen were attacking her husband and kidnapping her son. The number of intercessors multiplied as word of the kid-

napping almost immediately flashed through electronic prayer networks.

Forty-five minutes after the carjacking, the gunmen put Nathanael out of the vehicle and left him alone on a dark road in the village of Katiola.

Villagers put him in the care of a midwife, who fed and bathed the child and put him to bed while authorities located his parents. Nathanael was back with his father by 1:30 a.m., just hours after his abduction.

His father's injury was superficial, with the bullet miraculously passing through his right side between the ribs without hitting any vital organs. His mother, however, was hospitalized because the shock of the carjacking and kidnapping exacerbated the complications of her pregnancy.

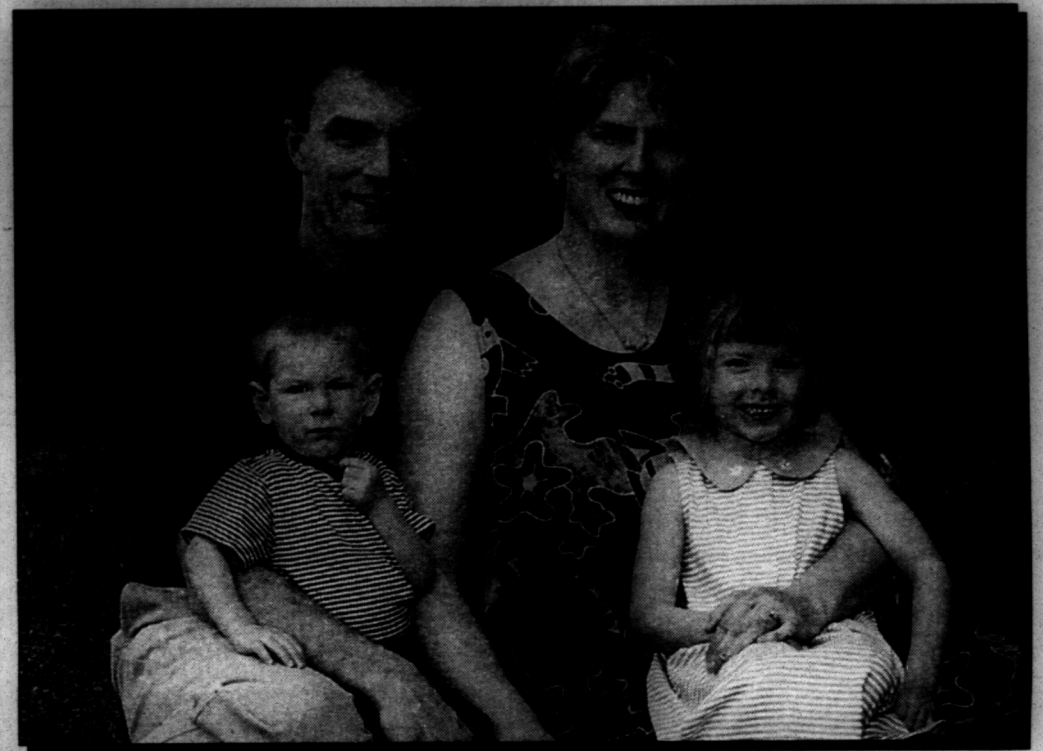
The incident highlights the importance of praying for missionaries and illustrates the power of those prayers, said Wanda Lee, the national executive director of Woman's Missionary Union.

"We never completely know what we are praying for when we pray for missionaries on the prayer calendar," Lee said. "It is humbling and exhilarating when we learn about experiences like the Forsythes' and know, in faith, that our prayers played a role in resolving it."

Travis Forsythe is a native of Brownsville, Tenn., and is a graduate of Union University in Jackson, Tenn., and

Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. Kim McKenzie Forsythe is from LaGrange, Ill., and also is a Union University graduate.

They were appointed by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board in March 1999.



FORSYTHE FAMILY — Travis and Kim Forsythe are Southern Baptist missionaries in Cote d'Ivoire. Travis was wounded May 8 when gunmen hijacked his car and drove away with the missionary's son, Nathanael, still in the vehicle. The Forsythes are pictured with their children Nathanael and Gloria. (BP photo by IMB staff)

SPIRITUAL CLONES

Understanding cloning is way beyond me. While I have read about it, and even have some sense of how they say it is done, I am still just a far-removed observer of this process of genetic engineering. I, like possibly many of you, am just amazed at what scientists are doing and am baffled by the potential good and bad that can be done. To be able to take the genetic material in a cell and from it produce an exact likeness, whether a sheep or a monkey, and potentially people, is amazing, exciting, and frightening all at the same time.

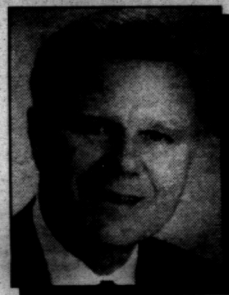
What if it was possible to make "spiritual" clones? What if exact replicas of your spiritual DNA could be made into a hundred other people, or even a thousand, and brought together in a church, a fellowship of people? What would it be like? While I recognize this is fictitious, it does help us to understand the creative genius of our God as he puts together

a church. It does not matter which one of us becomes the pattern for the clone, because if everyone was like we are, there would be gaping holes of deficiencies in every fellowship.

Just think about it. Everybody in the choir would sound just like you. Everybody would only be involved in those dimensions of ministry and missions that appeal to you. Everyone would have the same patterns of faithfulness and attendance, and the same attitude toward giving, and the same feelings about forgiveness. If everybody in the church was a clone of you, which services would they have or not

have? Would anybody attend revival services? Would people come on Sunday night? Would they only attend at Easter and Christmas? Would anybody be concerned about world missions? Would people be praying one for another? Would folks bring their Bibles to church? Would visitors be welcome?

As I considered the things we would miss if churches were made up of spiritual clones, I began to rejoice as I realized God has made up his family by the birth of one unique child at a time. God's family, his sons and daughters, come into his Kingdom as people with varied interests, differing gifts, and varying degrees of energy and resources. He brings them all together and uses each of them to bless the others. It would be wonderful if all of us would recognize and celebrate what God has given the rest of the family.



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Wayne Logan dies at age 87

DALLAS, Texas (Special) — Mississippi native W. Wayne Logan, an emeritus Southern Baptist missionary to Nigeria, died April 21. He was 82. A native of Calhoun County, Logan and his wife, the former Dorothy Cook of Wiggins, were appointed missionaries to Nigeria by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board in 1952. He worked as a missionary dentist in Shaki, Ibadan and Enugu before transferring to Lagos, where he was an orthodontist and taught in the dental school of the University of Lagos College of Medicine. He is survived by his wife; two daughters, Martha Ramage of Dallas and Rebecca Logan of Norfolk, Va.; and a son, Steven Logan of Bastrop, Texas.

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JUST FOR THE RECORD

Strong Hope Church, Wesson, will celebrate its 125th anniversary on May 28. Activities begin at 8:30 a.m. with coffee and doughnuts and continue throughout the day with worship, song, and fellowship. Covered dish luncheon will be held at noon followed by afternoon services.

Osyka Church, Osyka, will celebrate its 130th anniversary on May 21, morning registration begins with coffee and doughnuts at 9 a.m., services at 10 a.m., with catered lunch to follow. David Millican, McComb, will be the guest speaker. Master of ceremonies will be Butch Dear, former minister of music. Milton Kliesch is pastor. For more information, call (601) 542-5972.

Leesburg Church, Morton, will host The Greenes in concert, June 1, at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call (601) 854-5306.

Bethesda Church, Terry, will have dedication for its new multipurpose building on May 21 during worship services at 10:45 a.m.



WMU of Dixie Church, Hattiesburg, hosted a banquet honoring its GAs and their mothers and leaders on March 31. Molly Fairchild provided the entertainment.

The special emphasis for the month of April at Woolmarket Church, Biloxi, was "On Mission to Share Jesus." The church set an Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goal of \$5,000 and received \$5,051. The church had 11 new members, ten of which were by baptism. Paul Crowley is pastor.



Military Church, Sumrall, held ground breaking ceremony on Jan. 30. Pictured (from left) are Mike Aultman, pastor; Herman Sumrall; Phil Hanberry; Micah Miller; Keith Patterson; Randy Mauldin; Jan Howard; and Pam Sanders.

Revival dates

Leesburg Church, Morton: May 19-21; 7 p.m.; Jimmy Robertson, Zachary, La., evangelist; Jeff Jones, Leesburg Church, music.

Renfro, Carthage: May 21-24; Bobby Waggoner, evangelist; Murphy Thompson, pastor.

Midway, Moss Point: May 29-June 4; 7 p.m.; Valton Douglas, evangelist; Herman Cowart, singer.

Revival results

Tylertown, Tylertown: April 30-May 4; Billy Murphy, Hattiesburg, interim pastor, preaching; Jimmy Little, Laurel, music; eight profession of faith.

Honoring
them....
glorifying
Him!



ANNUITY BOARD
OF THE SOUTHERN
BAPTIST CONVENTION

"I am
blessed to
know there

are precious believers who share in making the
older years brighter. The \$75 I receive each
month is needed and appreciated, but what
moves me so deeply is the simple fact that there
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Throughout their lives, thousands of
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June 25 is Adopt An Annuitant Sunday
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Join other congregations in Mississippi and across the
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number, 1-800-262-0511.

Individuals may also call to request a personal
information package about the Adopt An Annuitant
ministry.

Contact us today!

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

May 18, 2000

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Office of Communication.



2000 DATES FOR GA SUMMER CAMP CAMP CARAYWA

JUNE 5-9
JUNE 12-16
JUNE 19-23
JUNE 26-30
JULY 3-7
JULY 10-14
JULY 17-21
JULY 24-28
(COMPLETED GRADES 3-6)

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Parents must
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2000 Growing Churches Conference Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

July 27-29

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100 First Street
Pass Christian, MS 39571-3299
Telephone: (228) 452-7261
Fax: (228) 452-7263

NOTE: MasterCard and Visa can be used
for reservations and payment of bill.

Please call the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department for
more info: (601) 968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651.

September Sunday School Training

The Power to
Change



The Power of
Spiritual
Transformation

Conferences begin at 6:30 on Friday night and conclude by noon on Saturday at all three locations.

**September 8 and 9
First Baptist Church
Batesville**

Guest Speaker:
Chuck Pourciau, Pastor
Broadmoor Baptist Church Shreveport,
La.

No pre-registration,
no cost,
no childcare provided.

Registration begins at 5:30 p.m.

**September 8 and 9
Gulfshore Baptist Assembly
Pass Christian**

Guest Speaker:
Brian Ivey, Pastor
Highland Baptist Church
Vicksburg

Reservations are required.
Contact Gulfshore, 228-452-7261.
Cost: \$40 per person which includes
one night's lodging and three meals.
Commuter Fee for both days:
\$3 per person.
No childcare will be provided.

Registration begins at 3:00 p.m.

**September 15 and 16
First Baptist Church
Madison**

Guest Speaker:
Lawrence Phipps, Pastor
Vaughn Forest Baptist Church
Montgomery, Ala.

No pre-registration,
no cost,
no childcare provided.

Registration begins at 5:30 p.m.

Conferences offered at all three locations on:

- Preschool, children, youth and adult curriculum and ministry update.
- Curriculum updates and conferences for pastors, Sunday School directors and other general officers.
- Electives for all age groups, including teaching and ministry ideas for small churches.

Additional conferences for smaller churches offered at Batesville and Gulfshore locations.

A detailed listing of faculty and conferences may be found at our web site, www.mbc.org/ss.

worship.now

Mississippi Baptist Youth Night

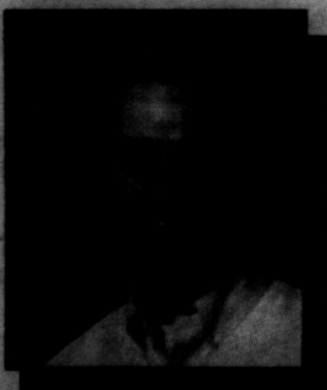
Mississippi Coliseum, Jackson

Friday, July 14

6:30-9:00 p.m.

- MARK YOUR CALENDAR
- COME AND WORSHIP
- BRING YOUR YOUTH

Greg Matte
Speaker



Chris Tomlin
Worship Leader





Life is not made up of
the things we own.
Luke 12:15

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Gulfshore
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Pass Christian
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2000 Family Week

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

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July 3-7

Activities for all age groups!

2000 State Singles Retreat

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

May 27-29

Seminar topics include:

- Share Jesus without fear
- Strength for the journey
- Storytelling
- Power of faith
- Future trends
- Self image
- Leadership

For information on any of the above,
contact the Discipleship and Family Ministry
Department: 1-800-748-1651 or
(601) 968-3800



Super Summer 2000

**with Greg Matte
and Chris Davis**

July 24-28

**Mississippi College
& FBC, Clinton**

Super Summer Mississippi is for the young person who is a mature and responsible Christian leader. Super Summer will not be for your entire group. Mississippi College and FBC, Clinton, are the hosts for Super Summer, July 24-28. Young people attending Super Summer Mississippi spend approximately 20 hours in evangelism and discipleship training. Quality youth leaders from our state lead our youth in study. Youth are trained in how to share their faith, how to have a quiet time, how to memorize scripture, how to find God's will for their lives, and more. They are also challenged and equipped to utilize their talents to penetrate their culture for Christ in a creative and effective way. Throughout Super Summer young people are encouraged to use the freedom they have in Christ to change the world.

Don't miss out on an opportunity to be a part of Super Summer 2000!

Financial Requirements

The total cost for Super Summer during the registration period is \$150 per student and adult; amount includes food, housing in the school dormitory, materials, and T-shirt.

Guidelines for all SS candidates

1. Demonstrates leadership qualities and is a growing Christian.
2. Faithful involvement in worship, Sunday School, and Wednesday night youth activities.
3. Complete at least one level of a discipleship study (i.e., Survival Kit, DiscipleYouth, DiscipleNow...).
4. Memorized a minimum of 10 scripture verses relating to discipleship, evangelism, or a disciple study.
5. Share their personal testimony with the youth group.
6. Share the Gospel with at least one person this year.
7. Completed at least the 8th grade in 1999, but not yet in college.
8. Agree to attend all SS sessions.
9. Second year students: Express in 100 words or less your level of commitment to Christ and how you are involved in leadership in your church.
10. First year students: You must be involved in a "small group" study or accountability group prior to Super Summer.

REGISTRATION BEGINS APRIL 17. The cost for adults and students who register before May 15 is \$150. If they register between May 16 and June 15, the cost is \$160. After June 15, the cost is \$175.

Name _____
Church _____
Phone _____
Mailing Address _____
City _____ e-mail _____
State/Zip _____ fax _____

Please send a registration packet.

Return this form to: **Discipleship & Family Ministry Dept.**
Miss. Baptist Convention Board
P.O. Box 530
Jackson, MS 39205-0530

Call the Discipleship & Family Ministry Department for more info: 601-968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651

Pray this day for...

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 968-3800, Ext. 3904 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY

May 19 - June 8, 2000

Solution To A Problem - The shortest distance between a problem and a solution is the distance between your knees and the floor.

--Uplink Newsletter

Pray for ISC worker Connie Davis as she seeks to wrap up the food distribution program in Pristina and Cicavice villages in Kosovo. Ask God to calm the unrest and give peace in Mitrovica. Pray for His protection of His people and the lost in this region.

Join missionary Carol Brown of Venezuela in thanking God for greater freedom for Christian ministry and witness among the goat herders. Continue to pray for the salvation of thousands of unreached goat herders living in west central Venezuela.

Pray for prayerwalking groups that would commit to prayer-walk Kui villages in the north-east region of Thailand. Also pray that churches around the world would "adopt" the Kui for prayer, and also commit to send workers into this harvest field.

For (1) Reconciliation - Celebrate Jesus 2000, New Life Fellowship BC, Jackson (Strategic Initiative Dept). (2) III Senior Adult Conference, Gulfshore Assembly (Discipleship & Family Ministry).

Praise God that the 800,000 members of the Nigeria Baptist Convention's 7,000 churches have sent out 36 missionaries. Nigerian Baptists celebrated 150 years of Baptist ministry in April and heard from one of their most famous sons - Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo.

Missionary Donna Fort writes: The news from Zimbabwe is very bleak right now. Pray for the farmers who have been invaded, especially those who have experienced violence on their farms to have wisdom to know what to do. Pray for peace to return.

Join the Netherlands Refugee Team in giving thanks to God for four vanloads of Chinese young people who recently attended a Bible study and watched the "Jesus" film. One vanload had to be turned away because of lack of space.

Workers in Beijing, China, the capital city of more than 15 million people, are presently engaged in 40 days of prayer and fasting for their city. Join them in praying that the gospel will spread forth to communities throughout China.

Missionary John Robinson in Wales, asks us to pray for these specific people groups - the Cymry Cymraeg of Wales, Gaeligeoiri of Ireland, the Gaelic speakers of Scotland, and the Brezhonegerien of France. Pray that they will receive the the gospel.

Please pray that God will prepare the hearts of the Laluo people of China to receive the gospel. They are a minority group residing in the western Yun-nan Province. They live in the most remote areas of the mountains and have yet to be touched by the gospel.

Frank Shope, Jr. is a multi-housing church planter in Albuquerque, NM. Pray for more resources. Pray that the two-year-old ministry will grow. They have seen God do a lot of great things.

Missionary Evelyn Frost of Uganda was falsely accused of hitting a girl with their mission vehicle on April 10. She had to go make a statement at the police station. Pray that the truth will be recognized and that these false charges will be dropped.

A Taiwanese woman became a believer while in the US. Her parents are angry, have taken her Bible and restricted her contacts. She got sick recently and they blamed her Christianity and ordered her to participate in ancestor worship. She refused. Pray that her faith will be strong.

A Fulbe/Futa Jalon man's wife was taken away from him after accepting Christ. His wife wants to return to him because she has seen a wonderful change in him since he became a Christian. Pray that his wife's relatives will allow her and their children to return to him.

Stan Albright is associational director of missions for the Calhoun Baptist Association in Oxford, Ala. Pray for their World Changers project, July 1-8. They will be working on construction and repair of houses. Pray for more students to participate.

For (1) Associational Leadership Training, Camp Garaywa (WMU), (2) African American Leadership Institute, Emmanuel BC, Macon (Strategic Initiative Dept.).

Low water levels in the lakes and a lack of rain threatened the city of Sarmiento's supply of drinking water in Argentina. After much prayer by a congregation, they had a wonderful rain. Knowing God cared about their city touched several people from the community. Give thanks to God.

A team is seeking to share Christ with followers of a world religion in Sarajevo, Bosnia. Many consider themselves members of this religion only because they were born into this ethnic category. Ask God to break down this barrier of ethnic identity and open their hearts to the gospel.

There have been significant inroads made into the up-until-now unevangelized professional class in Chile. Pray for these new congregations that are culturally and economically worlds apart from the traditional outreach fields of their Chilean Baptist brethren.

For (1) Single Adult Conf., Gulfshore Assembly (D&FM), (2) The Orthodox church is attacking the evangelical churches in Macedonia. Recent TV and newspaper reports have likened Protestants to vampires. Pray for God's glory during this increased attention.

Please pray that there will be peace and safety along the roads of northern Mali where armed bandits have once again started causing problems. It affects the entire population to some degree. Pray for the safety of missionary personnel and others who live in the area.

1-98 MR. BRADLEY CURTIS
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11-87 MISS ANDERA HENDRICKS
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Vera Cruz Ver, MEXICO
Parents: Larry & Mary, General Evangelism

13-85 MISS RACHEL GRAVES
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Parents: Edgar & Marilyn, General Evangelism

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Parents: Frank & Jerry Anne, Mission Administration
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Take a moment to send a card to the children of the world.

WMU to install Lee; elect new president

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP) — The installation of a new executive director/treasurer, election of a new national president, and a missions celebration will highlight the June 11-12 Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) Annual Meeting and Missions Conference. In addition, contemporary Christian singer Alicia Williamson will perform in the closing session of the meeting.

The yearly gathering of WMU members and guests will be held at the Orange County Convention Center on Sunday and Monday prior to the Southern Baptist Convention's June 13-14 annual meeting. Sessions begin at 2 p.m. Sunday afternoon and conclude Monday evening. The meeting will develop the theme, "Dispelling the Darkness."

Along with five annual meeting plenary sessions, the WMU event will also include a missions conference. Participants will attend four one-hour conferences covering such topics as women and the Web; storytelling; missions in the 21st century; and money management. Williamson and Sarah S. Groves will also lead a conference based on a their

new book for New Hope Publishers, "A Seeking Heart: Rediscovering True Worship."

The missions conference sessions will be held in the Peabody Hotel and restricted to registered participants only. The cost is \$35 per person. Registration may be done in advance or on site. The annual meeting sessions are free and open to the public.



Lee

Wanda S. Lee will be installed as WMU's seventh executive director/treasurer in the opening session of the organization's annual meeting. Lee, who was elected Jan. 22 by the WMU executive board, served the organization as national president from June 1996 until assuming her new post March 1.

Among those scheduled to participate in the installation service are WMU's three previous executive directors, Dellanna W. O'Brien, Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler, and Alma Hunt.

A new national president will be elected during the Monday morning session and assume office at the conclusion of the annual meeting. The WMU executive board will bring a nomination before the

WMU members present for their approval. The new president will be eligible to serve five one-year terms. National recording secretary Janet Hoffman is eligible to be re-elected to a fifth and final term.

One duty of the president is to preside at the WMU annual meeting. Since the organization currently does not have a president, a different WMU vice president (state WMU president) will preside at each of the five sessions of the annual meeting.

The states represented will be Mississippi (Rebecca Williams of Gautier), Florida, South Carolina, Texas, and Georgia.

The Sunday evening session will feature a missions celebration, highlighting both North American and international missions. The session will open with a parade of flags and the introduction of a host of international and North American missionaries. The evening will also feature Robert E. Reccord, president of the North American Mission Board, and Jerry A. Rankin, president of the International Mission Board.

For more information on the WMU annual meeting and conferences, call (888) 968-0322 or visit www.wmu.com on the Internet.

VBS dates

Rock Hill, Brandon: May 29-June 2; 6-8:30 p.m.



YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.
(*I have sinned.*)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death.
(*I repent.*)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you.
(*I believe in Jesus.*)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him.
(*I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.*)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

BEESON DIVINITY SCHOOL Presents THE 13TH ANNUAL SAMFORD PASTORS SCHOOL

JULY 24 - 28, 2000

THEME: "CHOSEN BY GOD FOR THE TASK" ACTS 9:15



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WIERSBE**
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(retired)



**ALEC
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Bristol (retired)



**MARY KAY
BEARD**
Founder of
Angel Tree

Workshops - led by Beeson Divinity School faculty and guest speakers - will be offered throughout the week.

Women's Workshops - "All I Am Is Yours: Nurturing Christian Spirituality" led by Denise George, Wanda Taylor Smith, and special guest Mary Kay Beard.

The cost for the conference, including meals and lodging on the Samford University campus, is \$125 for pastors, \$60 for spouses and \$60 for each child. For more information, or to request a detailed brochure, please call 1-800-888-8266. Or visit our Web site at <http://beeson.samford.edu> to register.



SAMFORD UNIVERSITY
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Baptist College news

William Carey College will host the fifth annual Minister's Golf Tournament May 22 and 23 at the Canebrake Golf Course in Hattiesburg. The tournament will begin at 12 noon on Monday and 8 a.m. on Tuesday. The cost per person is \$90. The format is two man scramble. For more information call 582-6115.

Twenty-six students from William Carey College received the Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges recognition as national outstanding leaders. Campus nominating committee and editors of the annual directory have included the names of these students based on their academic achievement, service to community, leadership in extracurricular activities, and potential for continued success. Students named this year from William Carey College's Hattiesburg campus are: Jennifer Burris, Mize; Katie Butler, Convey, Ark. Konya Carter, Petal; Pamela Cranford, Hattiesburg; Jonathan Pope Evans, Falkville, Ala.; Ashley Fitzhugh, Pine Grove, La.; Greg Hodges, Hattiesburg; Dana Johnson, Sallis; Heather Joyner, Collinsville; Karen Kennedy, Purvis; Ruth Ann Kennedy, Purvis; Rachel Lawson, Lumberton; Marissa McGee, Hickory; Kimberly Morris, Amite, La.; Keven Newsome, Columbia; Clay Norwood, Pelahatchie; Jason Ruiz, Gulfport; Shane Sims, Florence; Blake Slocum, Foxworth; Colleen Smith, Perkinston; Patricia Sullivan, Mt. Olive; April Taylor, Collins; Mandy Trammell, Florence; Natalie Watkins, Carriere; Lydia Wilson, Soso; and Renee Wilson, Lucedale.

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WMU ANNUAL MEETING • JUNE 11-12, 2000

Orange County Convention Center • Orlando, Florida

THEME: *Dispelling the Darkness*

"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:14-16 NIV)

**SUNDAY, JUNE 11
2:00 P.M.**

"Walk while you have the light" John 12:35 (NIV).

Call to Order: Helen Yates, Florida Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) president, Apopka, Fla., presiding

Praise to the Father: "Great Redeemer, We Adore Thee" and "The Light of the World Is Jesus"

Announcements: Installation of Wanda S. Lee, seventh executive director of WMU

Processional

Hymn: "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

Scripture and Prayer: Ron Grizzle, pastor, First Church, Columbus, Ga.

Special Music: Allison Lee, Birmingham, Ala.

Hymn: "God, Our Author and Creator"

Passing of the Torch: Alma Hunt, former executive director, WMU, SBC, Roanoke, Va.; Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler, former executive director, WMU, SBC, Cincinnati, Ohio; Dellanna W. O'Brien, former executive director, WMU, SBC, Birmingham, Ala.

Placing of the Medallion: The medallion is a bronze replica of the WMU emblem which is the shape of the fish head, early sign of trust among Christians. Inside is the open Bible, the torch of God's spirit, and the world. On the Bible are the words, "Laborers Together with God" (1 Cor. 3:9). Following the installation of Wanda S. Lee, the medallion will hang in the Executive Office Conference Room in the WMU Building in Birmingham, Ala.

Response: Wanda S. Lee, executive director, WMU, SBC, Birmingham, Ala.

People's Commitment and

Benediction: Barbara Curnutt, executive director, Georgia WMU, Atlanta, Ga.

Conferences: 4:00-5:00

**SUNDAY, JUNE 11
7:30 P.M.**

Call to Order: Loraine Long, South Carolina WMU president, Clinton, SC, presiding

Music for Meditation: Larry Lee, Columbus, Ga., pianist

Hymns of Praise: Sarah Groves, Jonesboro, Ark., directing

Announcements and Introductions

Prayer
Flag Processional and Introduction of International Mission Board (IMB) missionaries and North American Mission Board (NAMB) missionaries

Acteans Panelists: Becky England, design editor, WMU, SBC, Birmingham, Ala.; Cassie Androes, Rogers, Ark.; Laura Borrego, LaPorte, Tex.; Connie Cooper, Dickson, Tenn.; Rebecca Ann Damery, Springfield, Ill.; Tera Brooke Hayes, Granite Falls, N.C.; Amy Travis, Murray, Ky.

Interview with Robert E. Reccord, president, NAMB, Alpharetta, Ga.; **Steve Hoekstra,** missionary associate, NAMB, Aspen, Co.; **Ken Belflower,** missionary associate, NAMB, Phoenix, Az.; **Janette Baldwin,** US/C-2, NAMB, New York, N.Y.

Hymn
Special Music: Sarah Groves
Interview with Jerry A. Rankin, president, IMB, Richmond, Va.; and three IMB missionaries

Benediction

**MONDAY, JUNE 12
9 A.M.**

Call to Order: Jeane M. Law, Texas WMU president, Lubbock, Tex., presiding

Music for Meditation: Larry Lee
Hymns of Praise: Sarah Groves, directing

Prayer
Announcements and Introductions

Missionary Testimonies: Janie and Joy

Executive Board Report: Wanda Lee, Birmingham, Ala.

Election of Officers
Offering

Special Music
Literacy Missions Testimony: Gayle Leininger, missionary associate, NAMB, Gatlinburg, Tenn.

Benediction
Conferences: 11:00-12:00

**MONDAY, JUNE 12
1:30 P.M.**

Call to Order: Janet B. Hill, Georgia WMU president, Marietta, Ga., presiding

Music for Meditation: Larry Lee
Hymns of Praise: Sarah Groves, directing

Prayer
Announcements/Introductions
Missionary Testimony: David and Milvian Lema, missionaries, NAMB, Miami Springs, Fla.

Special Music

Testimony: Lynn Latham, missionary, NAMB, Orlando, Fla.

Benediction

Conferences: 3:00-4:00

Conferences: 4:15-5:15

**MONDAY, JUNE 12
7:30 P.M.**

Call to Order: Rebecca H. Williams, Mississippi WMU president, Gautier, Miss., presiding

Music: Missions Live, NAMB
Hymns of Praise: Sarah Groves, directing

Announcements and Introductions

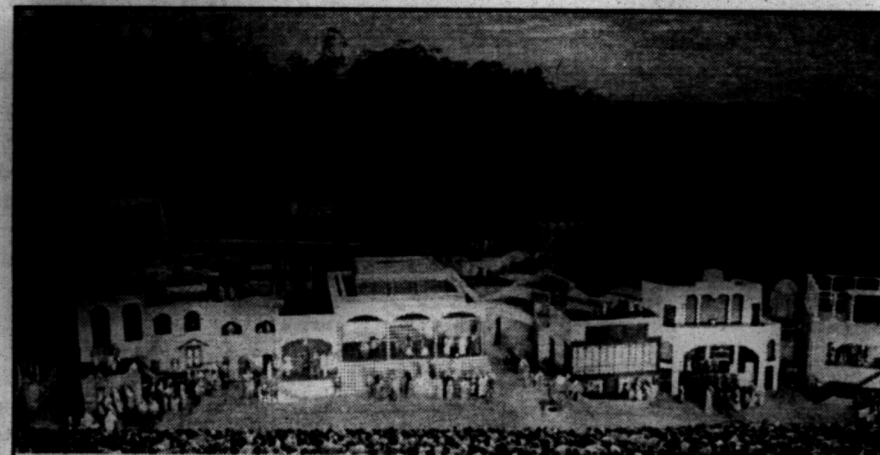
Missionary Testimony: John and Anna Ramirez, missionaries, NAMB, Northborough, Mass.

Message from Women's Department, Baptist World Alliance (BWA): Audrey Morikawa, president, Women's Department, BWA, Toronto, Canada

Hymn
Address

Music for Inspiration: Alicia Williamson, Mobile, Ala.

Benediction



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BIBLE DRILL UPDATE

Editor:

In the May 4 article listing winners in the state Bible Drills, we failed to mention just how much goes into being able to compete in the Scholarship Tournament. In order to compete in the tournament, students must have participated in Bible Drill for nine years — three years in Children's Drill and six years in state Youth Drill.

This year some 25 students participated in this drill and did an outstanding job. The three top finishers listed in the May 4 article are eligible to receive scholarships to attend our Mississippi Baptist colleges: Blue Mountain College, Mississippi College, and William Carey College.

Thanks to Mississippi Baptists for supporting Bible Drills in this great state. We hope that you will continue to get the word out about the lasting effect that Bible Drills have on your students. Please let us know if we can help in any way. I can be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651. E-mail: hgellis@mbcb.org.

Harvey Ellis, consultant
MBCB Discipleship and
Family Ministry Dept.
Jackson

THANKS, ANDY

Editor:

As we approach Adopt An Annuitant Sunday on June 25, I want to extend a public word of appreciation to Andy Holder, a layman at Raymond Road Church in Jackson. Andy's burden for God's servants led him to develop the Retired Ministers' Benefit Golf Tournament in 1997.

Through Andy's efforts and leadership, and the participation of Mississippi Baptist golfers, this event has netted more than \$26,000 in the past three years. All the proceeds are used to provide \$75 monthly Adopt An

Annuitant supplements to aged Mississippi ministers and their widows living in perilous financial circumstances.

Thank you Mississippi Baptists — and thank you, Andy — for your ongoing care and compassion for God's retired servants in need.

John H. Ambra
Annuity Board, SBC
Dallas, Texas

ENJOYED BIKER ARTICLE

Editor:

I enjoyed the recent article about the ministry to bikers by The Church in the Wind. You might be interested to know there is a group right here in Mississippi that also ministers to bikers — the Christian Motorcyclists' Association (CMA). Our local chapter is the Cross Road Riders in Jackson.

Though CMA does not baptize, my heart melted as I watched a tattooed young girl as she was baptized in the church of her choice. CMA welcomes all bikers. We are a mixture of all denominations, but we are brought together by one Christ. We love the Lord Jesus Christ and want to share that love, and more especially, the Good News of his love for us, with our fellow men who also happen to enjoy motorcycling. "Bandito" or millionaire businessman, we all come to Christ the same way.

My husband and I want to make a difference and we know in our hearts that this is a way to do that. If you'd like more information, you can write to CMA at P. O. Box 9, Hatfield, AK 71945 or visit the CMA web site at www.cmausa.com.

Charlotte Holmes
Clinton

OUTWARD APPEARANCE

Editor:

The Biker for Jesus story of May 4 proves one thing — even "Hell's Angels" themselves are

powerless against God's holy angels & the Spirit-led witness of his children, in this case the biker's brother! Praise the Lord!

This dear "biker brother" was apparently looking for a church where people could "come to Jesus as they are." Obviously all of Jesus' true churches are charged to eagerly and lovingly embrace any unrepentant sinner needing salvation in this manner — but once a professing follower of Christ, each new convert has grave responsibility by his Word to daily allow Jesus to "conform our Christianity" to his image in our inward character and outward presentation so as not to bring reproach to his name, as Jesus "ate" with sinners but never "sinned" with sinners!

Perhaps one of our post-1960s culture's least favorite verses even among many Christians is 1 Cor. 11:14 where Paul asks "Doth not even nature itself teach you that if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?" The notion that "outward appearance" has nothing to do with "inward nature" is perhaps one of the enemy's most believed lies, as even many churches often violate this principle by allowing Christian men with yet "shameful" appearance to be held up "publicly" as an accepted standard of Biblical Christianity, causing countless people lost and saved to stumble and even conform to this scripturally deficient standard.

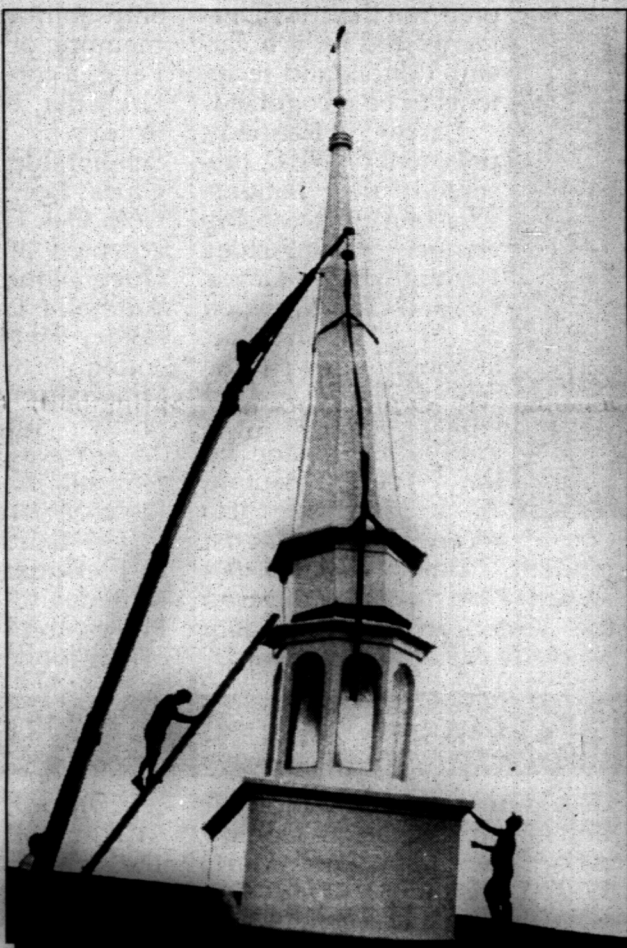
Stephen Forfer
Forest

JUST FOR THE RECORD

First Church, Collins, will observe its Centennial celebration on May 20-21. Services will begin with a reception at 6 p.m. on Saturday followed by the presentation of God for Us at 7

p.m. Sun-day's activities begin with high attendance day in Sunday School, followed by a musical prelude featuring the handbell choir. Worship celebration begins at 10:45 a.m. with a presentation from the Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission, and the choir will present a special Centennial anthem commissioned for the occasion. The morning message will be delivered by M. L. Faler. Dinner on the grounds followed by services at 1:30 p.m. Joe Ratliff, who served the church as pastor for 21 years, will

bring the afternoon message. The church has completed a major renovation including a new pitched roof, new elevator, enlarged foyer, new steeple, prayer room, and other improvements.



Construction workers prepare to position the steeple and cross on the sanctuary of First Church, Collins.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

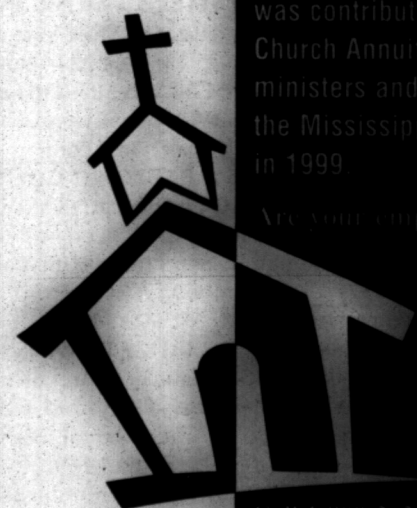
Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

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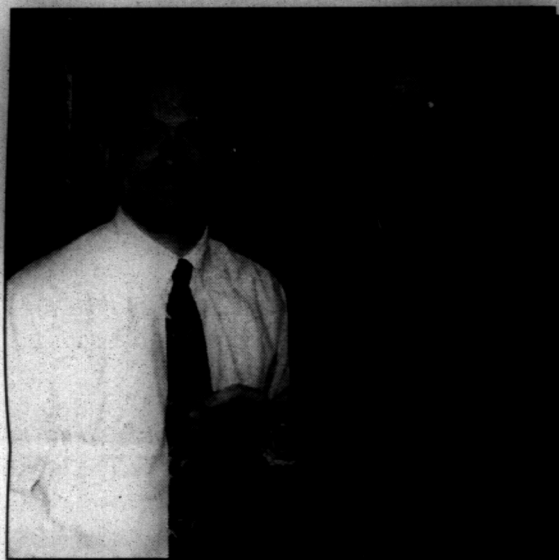
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Pictured (from left) are Ashley Fitzhugh, Kennedy, and Clay Norwood during the Convocation. Fitzhugh and Norwood received the Jenkins-Chastain Citizenship Award.

The annual Honors Day ceremony was held recently at William Carey College (WCC). This is a time set aside for students and faculty to be given awards and honored for their achievements and for scholarship donors and recipients to be recognized.

Larry Kennedy, president of WCC, presented the Jenkins-Chastain Citizenship Award to Ashley Fitzhugh of Pine Grove, La., and Clay Norwood of Pelahatchie. Fitzhugh received the School Spirit Award which is given to a graduating senior by the WCC Alumni Association. She also received the Baptist Student Union President's Award. Norwood also received the American Bible Society Scholarly Achievement Award.



Pictured (from left) Clark Beasley received outstanding Baptist Student Union (BSU) Council member award from Tim Glaze, director of BSU.

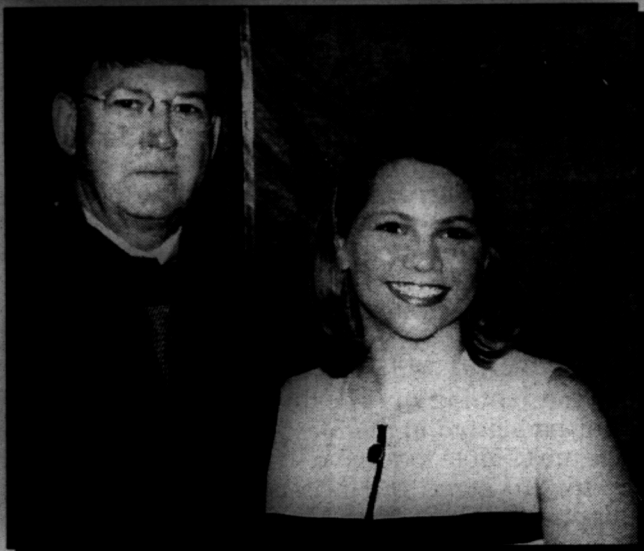
Shane Sims of Florence received the Leadership Award. He also received the Senior science award. Clark Beasley of Crystal Springs, and Kimberly Morris of Amite, La., were recognized as Mr. and Miss William Carey College. Beasley also received the Outstanding Baptist Student Union (BSU) Council Member Award.

The Outstanding Faculty Award was presented to Obra Quave, professor and chair of Theatre and Communication. Alissa King of Purvis, associate director of admissions, was named Outstanding Staff Member of the Year. These awards are voted on by the student body of Carey.

The J. E. Byrd Memorial Award for Outstanding Religion Major is Gerald King, from Petal. Ryan Stringer of Columbia received the Allen Williams Award. The award is given to the athlete who shows Christian character and leadership abilities and is named in memory of Allen Williams of Petal, a former member of the Crusader baseball team. The Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship was awarded to Chris Lee, a biology major from Oak Grove. Lee has been accepted at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia. Carey has had more Rotary Scholars than any other college or university in Mississippi. The Jack and Molly Burke Scholarship Award was presented to Eva Sumrall of Waynesboro, and Jason Meaux of Mendenhall.

The Smith-Holliman Award in Freshman English was presented to Deidra Smith, Perkinson. Fordrena Griffith of Gulfport was recognized as

the Outstanding English Major and received the J. V. McCrory Creative Writing Award for Informal Essay. The J. V. McCrory Creative Writing Award for Short Story and Poetry was awarded to Dee Baldwin of Quitman. Jonathan Pope Evans of Falkville, Ala.,



Pictured (from left) are Kennedy and Mandy Trammell during Convocation. Trammell presented the student body address during the ceremony.

received the J. V. McCrory Creative Writing Award for One Act Play. Angela Ray of New Orleans, La., received the Kappa Mu Epsilon Mathematics Award. Brandon Dillon of Natchez received the Freshman Science Award. The Health Related Professional Award was given to April Dawn Taylor of Collins. Dusty Dupre Shoemaker of Laurel was recognized as the Outstanding Nursing Student for 1999-2000.

Terra Colleen Smith of Perkinson was presented the Phi Delta Kappa (PDK) Outstanding Student Teacher Award. The PDK Outstanding Student Teacher Runner-up award was presented to Konya Carter of Petal. Outstanding Elementary Education majors honors went to Katie Butler of Conway, Ark.; Pamela Cranford of Hattiesburg; Rachel Lawson of Lumberton; and Laura Lewis of Hattiesburg. The Outstanding

Secondary Education Major honor went to Donna Creel of Petal, and Brian Phippen of Petal. Dana Johnson of Sallis, and Sheronda Edwards of Union, received Education Leadership Awards.

The Outstanding Female Business Student award was presented to Karen Kennedy of Purvis, and the Outstanding Male Business Student award to Greg Hodges of Hattiesburg. Lydia Wilson of Soso, received the Mississippi Society of CPA's Outstanding Accounting Graduate Award. The Phi Beta Lambda Leadership Award was presented to Steven West of Petal, and the Bank Simulation Winner was Wes Register of Hattiesburg. Alicia Parker of Hattiesburg, and Lori Parker of Batesville, were awarded the Senior Music Award. They are both musical therapy majors.

HOMEcomings

Bellevue (Pontotoc): May 21; 11 a.m.; Tim McMillen, guest speaker; fellowship meal at noon and afternoon singing; Lamar Pickens, pastor.

Hebron Church, Grenada: June 25: Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 10:45 a.m.; William Brown, preaching; Joey Ingram, music; noon covered dish lunch in fellowship hall; afternoon program by Proclaim; Harold Simmons, pastor.

Concord, McCall's Creek: May 28; 11 a.m.; covered-dish lunch in fellowship hall; Clarence Young, Brandon, guest speaker; James Case, pastor.

Bethesda, Terry: June 4; 10:45 a.m., followed by covered

dish dinner in fellowship hall; Bob Glenn Morgan, El Dorado, Ark., guest speaker; Marty Wilson, pastor.

Arlington, Bogue Chitto: May 28; 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds and afternoon service; Huey Moak, Baton Rouge, La., guest speaker; Bert Sasser Jr., Macon, music; Bob Lynch, pastor.

New Hope, Coffeeville: June 4; 10:45 a.m.; singing in afternoon; Frank Mixon, Grenada, guest speaker.

Concord, Meadville: May 28; 11 a.m.; followed by dinner on the grounds and 1:15 p.m. service; Clarence Young, speaker.

Leesburg, Morton: June 4; 10 a.m.; Jerry File, in charge of services followed by dinner on the grounds.

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PRICE HARRIS - MUSIC EVANGELIST Open dates for 2000: June 18; July 23, 30; Aug. 13; Sept. 24; Nov. 26; Dec. 17, 24. Call 318-687-0384 or 318-347-4370. Web page: www.dcw.net/phea; E-mail: Phea2@aol.com.

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EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Living irresponsibly

Judges 13:2-5; 16:16-21

By Keith Smyser

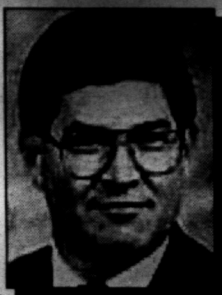
Since our church is located in a university town, we receive requests to reach out in Christian love to particular students. The request may be from a concerned parent, a pastor, or another relative who is worried about the life a student is choosing to lead. The student may have incredible potential but they make bad choices and are not following God's leadership for their life.

People of any age can choose to live irresponsibly. Our lesson is about one who held the title of "the strongest man in Israel." Tragically, he chose to live according to his own rules.

Special responsibility (13:2-5). Manoah's wife was unable

to have children. However, an angel appeared and shared the good news that she was to have a special child to be raised in a unique way. Manoah's wife was given special instructions for her own care during pregnancy and how to raise her son.

The details of becoming a Nazirite are found in Numbers 6:1-21. Samson's Nazirite service was unusual for at least three reasons: (1) Samson did not take the vow voluntarily; it was declared by the angel before Samson's birth (2) Samson's service was to be lifelong, not temporary, (3) Samson eventually broke all the stipulations (see 14:6-9; 15:15; 14:10-20; 16:17-19).



Smyser

equal. Despite the best of beginnings, Samson chose to do what he wanted rather than follow God's direction.

Irresponsible behavior (16:16-18). The Lord gave Samson many great victories in battles with the Philistines. Several times in chapters 14 and 15 we read how the "spirit of the Lord" came mightily upon Samson. Please note that by the time we get to chapter 16 this failed to happen and Samson was acting more on his own rather than being led by God.

Samson's problem was that

life was all about him. He became increasingly self-centered and focused upon what he wanted. Samson was blinded to Delilah's real intent. After all, how many times did it take for him to realize all she wanted was to know the secret of his strength?

Ultimately Samson gave in and told the truth regarding his vow as a Nazirite and all that it meant. The truth was Samson's strength did not come from his long hair but from God. God was faithful to give Samson the strength he needed, as Samson was faithful to God.

How often do believers today succumb to pressures or temptations to act irresponsibly?

Tragic results (16:19-21). It is hard to believe, but Samson was unaware that when he told Delilah everything, it would ultimately prove to be the end of his effective service for God. Some of the saddest words in Scripture are stated in verse 20, "he did not know that the Lord

had left him." Samson's greatest strength was the spirit of God upon him. Sadly, Samson did not know at this time that without God he was powerless.

Someone has said that verse 21 describes the "blinding, binding, and grinding effects of sin." "Samson walked in the darkness and died in the darkness. God forgave him and restored his strength, but he did not restore his sight or ministry." (With the Word by Warren Weirbse) At the end of his life, Samson killed more Philistines than he ever had before (v.30). The tragedy lies in Samson not consistently walking with God and missing the opportunity to lead his people to do the same.

Examine your own life and prayerfully consider how God should work in areas of your life where you are living irresponsibly.

Smyser is associate pastor of First Church, Starkville.

FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

From reluctance to joyful giving

2 Corinthians 9:1-15

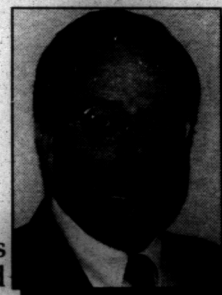
By Neel Grantham

Giving is one of those topics that church members really don't want to talk about. If you preach on giving or tithing once a year, for some that is once too often. Granted, there have been preachers and ministries over the years who have misused and abused the stewardship of monies given in their charge. That tends to make some givers skeptical. Other givers are reluctant to part with their money out of selfishness. Today in our society, those living on "fixed" incomes are reluctant to give out of survival concerns.

This lesson is designed to take one from reluctance to giving joyfully. Using Paul's prin-

ciples of giving, this can be accomplished in anyone's life. Believers must be open to God's teaching on these giving principles or any other principles from the Bible. For many, it may be radical change in personal views and even lifestyle. As God changes our minds and hearts about any subject to conform to his will, we often must be ready to face difficult changes. This is a good subject for every believer to study on their own. One Sunday School lesson will not come near exhausting the subject of giving, but we can learn from the principles of giving in this chapter.

Intent to give (vv. 1-5). The giving mentioned in chapters 8



Grantham

and 9 was for the saints in Jerusalem who were going through very difficult times. Paul had encouraged the Corinthians earlier (1 Corinthians 16) to participate in the "collection." Now he was following up in the administration of the gift.

When he arrived at Corinth to rest and prepare for the trip to Judea, he wanted the gift to be ready. In chapter 8 he encouraged them to finish the work.

What Paul had originally told them in 1 Corinthians 16:2 was to set aside some money on the first day of each week. As God prospered them, out of their bounty they could help others in need. At first they had a great eagerness to help. That initial intention is what Paul was following up on. He was not commanding them to give. He was reminding them to be ready to give what they had already committed to give to

help out the saints of Jerusalem. Christian charity in this manner is a worthy cause. It is one that we should not participate in grudgingly.

Matthew Henry wrote, "It is a good thing to lay up in store for good uses." One principle of giving we should learn is to set aside part (even a small part) of what God has blessed us with to help others in need. Further study of Acts 2:45 and Ephesians 4:28 can help us in the understanding of this principle.

Heart to give (vv. 6-7). While the gift referred to in chapters 8 and 9 was toward meeting needs, not tithing or giving to the ministry of the church, another principle to learn is that of sowing generously. One of the laws of the harvest is you reap what you sow. Notice though, that Paul did not command such giving. He taught to decide, or purpose, in your heart what you should give. I believe this is done with much prayer. Let

God help you decide the amount of your gift, whether it is to missions or a needy church member. You should not feel under compulsion because "God loveth a cheerful giver." This is another great principle of giving.

Grace to give (vv. 8-13). As you study giving in the Bible and learn to trust God in your giving, you will grow toward being a joyful giver. God will honor your giving and provide for you so you can continue to give to meet the needs of others. You will be a blessing to those being helped, who will in turn give great expressions of thanks to God. It will demonstrate to others your obedience that goes with your confession of Christ. Our last principle here is to trust God who will supply all we need so we will be ready for every good work. What a joy to be used by God in this manner.

Grantham is pastor of Pineview Church, Clinton.

LIFE AND WORK

Driven by devotion

1 Chronicles 22:1, 5-13, 17-19

By Matt Loving

How can you show your devotion to the Lord? This is certainly a legitimate question for Christians to consider. Most people ascribe to either a legalistic approach or to one that views their freedom in Christ as a means to seek personal agendas. We desperately need to learn to distinguish the difference between personal agendas (even those intended to honor God) and devotion to God that seeks and obeys his will above everything else. Four principles about how to do this can be gleaned from the life of David in the book of 1 Chronicles.

Do your best at what you can (vv. 1,5). Because of Solomon's youth at the time, David helped make preparations for the building of the temple. Just a few chapters earlier, in chapter 17, the Lord revealed to David that although he had the right desire in wanting to build the temple, the job would actually be completed by another. When God says "no" to what we had planned to do for him, he will remind us of where he's led us from. He will also humble us so that we will be able to identify what part he would have us to play in fulfilling the dream. Our response must be



Loving

as David's was. He remained faithful to God although he did not understand what was happening.

Know that God can make a different way (vv. 6-10). David charged his son with the building of the temple for the Lord. The Lord promised that Solomon would be a man of peace and would build the temple during a time of peace. Even though David originally had the desire to build the temple, the Lord would not permit him to build because David was essentially a warrior. It is okay to have dreams before God but we must be faithful in our present responsibilities. When God interrupts our plans to do something for him, he will make a way for those plans to be better fulfilled while we may still play a significant role in the plan. It is when we learn this truth that we can

have a similar perspective as Joseph did at the reuniting of his family. It was then that Joseph said "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives" (Genesis 50:20-NIV).

Understand the real secret of success (vv. 11-13). God's people need to know that those who live by God's wisdom and obey his commands have achieved success already. David encouraged Solomon in the truth that true success would depend on Solomon's keeping God's law. Chapter 17 reveals that David had learned to be humble before God and to be in awe that God saw his family as worthy to be used no matter what the purposes might be. We too must understand that seeking God's heart and obeying God's will are the true measures of success. Henry and Richard Blackaby

wrote that "it is a subtle temptation to prefer the book to the Author. A book will not confront you about your sin, the Author will ... no amount of Christian activity will ever replace your relationship with Jesus ... never become satisfied with religious activity rather than a personal, vibrant, and growing relationship with Jesus Christ." (Experiencing God Day-By-Day: Devotional and Journal, p. 110)

Keep seeking the Lord (vv. 17-19). In these verses David shifted from speaking to his son to Israel's leaders. He charges them with the task of continually seeking God with all their heart in everything that they do for the Lord. His example reveals that we should help prepare the way for those who will come after us. In the words of the praise chorus, "may all who come behind us find us faithful!"

Loving is minister of youth at Oak Hill Church, Poplarville.

Moldovan pastor leading fight for freedom

Tornado skirts Midwestern Seminary

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP) — Midwestern Seminary escaped damage from a tornado that touched down at 11:30 p.m. May 11, just 10 blocks south of the Kansas City, Mo., campus. Police established a command post along North Oak Trafficway, closing the road south of the seminary to deal with damage to a Toyota dealership.

The storm followed a path along the north side of the Missouri River, but no injuries were reported. Tree limbs and other debris from the car dealership were scattered in the neighborhood at 43rd Street and North Oak Trafficway.

Seminary families took shelter in basements of campus housing.

International student Vitali Malinouski of Belarus (in the former Soviet Union) headed for the bomb shelter that was built into the basement of the dormitory when the seminary was constructed in 1958. Constructed in the early 1960s, the facility was used for civil defense drills during the Cold War.

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ZNSD VULSC: CJVRIV

Clue: H = U

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Eight: Forty.

CHISINAU, Moldova (BP) — Valeriu Ghiletschi radiates confidence as he strides toward Moldova's parliament building. As one of the first Baptists elected to government service in the former Soviet Union, his assurance rises out of a conviction that God has called him to help his struggling people in their quest for freedom.

It's an awesome responsibility, and Ghiletschi is well aware that Baptists and other believers around the world are watching him almost as closely as are the communist legislators down the hall.

Among Moldovan Baptists, Ghiletschi is a respected leader — a pastor in charge of youth ministry for one of the country's largest churches, a teacher who helped establish the Baptist seminary.

Can a lone Baptist make a difference in a former Soviet republic? Ghiletschi hopes so.

The very idea that a Baptist — much less a Baptist pastor — would run for political office apparently offends many people in Moldova. Before Ghiletschi won election to parliament in 1998, his Party of Democratic Forces (DPF) was attacked in many newspaper articles because he was on the candidate list.

Orthodox Church leaders threatened to destroy the DPF campaign if Ghiletschi were not removed, but the party leaders rallied behind Ghiletschi after he met with them and told them about his life.

It was only after Ghiletschi was elected that one of the party leaders — a signer of Moldova's declaration of independence in 1991 — told Ghiletschi why he was willing to risk so much in supporting the pastor.

In 1987 the leader's son was ill, and two men came to visit him. One man was a Moldovan Baptist who had moved to the U.S. He asked if he could pray for the son.

After some hesitation, the party leader and his wife agreed. It impressed him that the man wept and prayed fervently for the boy as if he were his own child.

The father never saw the man again, but his son recovered in a few days. The incident left the leader respectful of Baptists.

Even some Moldovan believers weren't sure a minister should be running for public

office. Ghiletschi didn't ask Baptists to campaign for him, but to pray for him instead.

For Ghiletschi, serving in parliament is not just a whim or chance to help his struggling nation. Instead, he sees it as a spiritual quest, much as the Old Testament leader Joshua had to struggle to take and hold the land God promised.

Ghiletschi often speaks to young people about Moldova's current dark days, which leave many of them despairing of finding decent jobs.

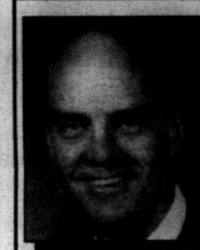
"I believe this generation is like Joshua and Caleb," he says. "They must lead into a new world order. When I speak to them, I always encourage them to be faithful to the Lord during these difficulties. I understand there are many difficulties, but these young people will be able to change the situation."

Ghiletschi himself is committed to change. Early on he was elected to the parliamentary committee on human rights, a topic dear to the hearts of long-repressed Baptists. He has kept his Christian faith public while trying not to alienate those of Orthodox faith or no faith, but the "special status" of the Orthodox Church keeps religious liberty issues on Ghiletschi's front burner.

He has argued long and hard against Moldova's Law of Religious Cults — or Denominations. The measure outlaws proselytizing, a broadly defined term to which the Council of Europe objected. After much debate, the government banned proselytizing "by violence or abuse of authority." Ghiletschi was not fully happy with the revision, but it was better than before. More recently, he was able to pass budget amendments that will exempt

religious educational institutions from property taxes and allow Christian literature to be

democracy are new wines, but the containers of communism are old," Ghiletschi observes.



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LifeAnswers

My wife and I are raising our grandchild, but we really would like to get the child's shiftless mother (our adult daughter) out of the house. How can we do this and still keep our grandchild?

Some suggestions would be to encourage your daughter to begin paying her expenses, help with food preparation, keep her clothes washed and room cleaned, pay for the gas in the car, etc. You could encourage her to begin finding a place of her own while offering to let her child stay with you while she is looking. Your job is to train up your daughter. Your daughter's job is to train up her child. You must decide whether you are willing to break the relationship with your grandchild at the cost of training your daughter. At this point you do not know what will happen. You need to decide which is worth more — the relationship with your grandchild or getting your daughter out of your house. Make a list of all the pros and cons of both decisions. Pray about them and let the Holy Spirit guide you. Get input from other parents in similar situations. Whatever

you do, be sure you talk with your spouse and craft a mutually-agreeable plan.

Whenever anything goes wrong around our house, it's my fault. I am so tired of this I'm thinking about leaving. Any advice?

Since you are always wrong, it is better not to say anything than to entrap yourself. Jesus did this when he stood before Caiaphas (Matt. 27:59-64) and eventually replied, "It is as you say." You are dealing with people who like to be in control (as if that's news to you!). You are not going to win. Your family members are very insecure and need help, but won't seek it. If you don't return evil for evil, however, the Holy Spirit will have an opportunity to convict them. Pray for them and encourage your family by giving them approval when they do the right things. The tendency is to only speak of the negative, because you are so frustrated. If you will acknowledge the right things, they may stop and take notice. This takes a long time, however, so do not expect immediate results.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. In central Mississippi, Ron Mumbower can be heard from 9-10 a.m. each Wednesday on WHJT-FM 93.5. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.